

## December 2012 Newsletter

### CIRM December Newsletter

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### UC Santa Barbara Opens CIRM-Funded Stem Cell Research Facility



In November, the University of California Santa Barbara celebrated the opening of its Center for Stem Cell Biology and Engineering. CIRM awarded UCSB \$3.2 million from its Major Facilities Grant Program; that was matched by \$3.2 million from the university to convert and renovate 10,000 square feet of laboratory space into a state-of-the-art stem cell research facility, part of the Neuroscience Research Institute. This opening marks the completion of the 12th and final stem cell research facility in California funded by CIRM's Major Facilities Grant Program.

- [Read our press release](#)
- [Read our blog about the opening](#)

### Video: Geron Stem Cell Clinical Trial Participant Shares Her Experience



Katie Sharify is one of five people with spinal cord injuries to participate in the world's first clinical trial testing human embryonic stem cells. On November 14th, she spoke about her clinical trial experience with a group of scientists who were meeting to discuss the best ways of advancing stem cell clinical trials. CIRM communications manager Amy Adams interviewed Sharify and her doctor, Stephen McKenna.

- [Watch the video](#)
- [Read our blog about the session](#)

### **ALS and MS Advocate Diane Winokur Appointed to CIRM Governing Board**

On November 20th, Diane Winokur, a tireless advocate for people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and multiple sclerosis was appointed to the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC), CIRM's governing board. Winokur served on the ALS Association's National Board of Trustees for five years and is presently an officer on the Golden West Chapter's Board of Directors. She also serves on the board of the the Packard Center. She was appointed to the board by Lt. Governor Gavin Newsome.

- [Read our press release](#)
- [Read our blog about Winokur's appointment](#)

### **Board Member Bert Lubin Named Most Admired CEO**



In November, CIRM governing board member Bert Lubin was one of fifteen people to win *San Francisco Business Time's* 2012 Most Admired CEO award. Dr. Lubin is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland.

- [Read the profile article about Lubin](#)
- [Read Lubin's bio from CIRM website](#)

#### **Board Member Sheehy and CIRM Grantees Recognized for AIDS Work**



POZ, the award-winning print and online brand for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, named CIRM board member Jeff Sheehy and CIRM grantees John Zaia and Paula Cannon to the 2012 POZ 100 list. The list recognizes people who have made a

significant contribution to speeding up the end of AIDS.

- [Read more about the 2012 POZ 100](#)
- [Watch our video featuring Jeff Sheehy and John Zaia](#)
- [Watch our video featuring Paula Cannon](#)

## CIRM Joins Bay Area Science Festival at AT&T Park



On November 3rd, CIRM participated in the Bay Area Science Festival, a free event at AT&T Park celebrating and promoting science. The Festival drew around 30,000 visitors, kids of all ages and parents, who were entertained by a non-stop program of science related interactive exhibits. CIRM was on hand to help explain our role in supporting stem cell research and accelerating the path to therapies.

- [Read our blog about the event](#)

## Happy 8th Birthday CIRM!

Eight years ago on November 5th, 2004, 59% of California voters said yes to funding stem cell research in the state. That vote created the state's stem cell agency, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. To celebrate eight years, we looked back at some key CIRM milestones over the years.

**Happy 8th Birthday CIRM!**

Year 1: Overcame legal objections to proposition 71  
Year 2: Began training the next generation of stem cell scientists  
Year 3: Encouraged 73 California labs to begin working with stem cells  
Year 4: Provided \$270 million for 12 research buildings. Leveraged \$800 million from private donors, created construction jobs & tax revenue for the state  
Year 5: Funded 14 teams of scientists to develop therapies many based on earlier CIRM funding  
Year 6: Recruited stem cell leaders to California  
Year 7: Funded projects that speed new therapies  
Year 8: Funded 12 more teams of scientists developing therapies and encouraged California biotech companies to invest in stem cell science

**Year 9 & Beyond: New stem cell clinical trials in California!**

- [Read our 8th birthday blog](#)

## 1200 and Counting: The Latest Publications on CIRM-funded Research

With over 1200 published discoveries, CIRM grantees are making steady progress on understanding the molecular basis of stem cell



biology and moving stem cell-based therapies toward clinical trials. Here is a partial list of science journals that published CIRM-funded research in November along with press releases from the grantees' home institutions and entries from the CIRM Stem Cell Research Blog:

#### **November 1st - *Genes and Development***

- UCSB Release: UC Santa Barbara Scientists Learn How to Unlock the Destiny of a Cell: A Gift for the Tin Man?

#### **November 7th - *Journal of Neuroscience***

- UC Irvine Release: New cell type developed for possible treatment of Alzheimer's and other brain diseases
- CIRM Blog: Alzheimer's disease could be helped by a type of brain cell recently generated from embryonic stem cells

#### **November 14th - *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry***

- HBRI Release: Small molecule makes heart cells out of stem cells
- CIRM Blog: CIRM grantees find chemical that may stimulate heart stem cells to repair damage after an attack

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **ICOC Governing Board Meeting**

**Dec 12th:** The CIRM governing board will hold its final meeting of 2012 at the Lux hotel in Los Angeles. The agenda and details will be posted to the **meetings page** 10 days before the event.

#### **2012 World Stem Cell Summit**

**Dec 3-5:** Palm Beach County Convention Center, West Palm Beach, Florida. Planned by and for the stem cell and regenerative medicine community, the **2012 World Stem Cell Summit** brings global stakeholders together to solve global challenges. The goal of the Summit is to accelerate the discovery and development of lifesaving cures and therapies.

### **Upcoming Requests for Applications (RFAs) and Program Announcement (PA) Schedule**

#### **RFA 12-09: CIRM Strategic Partnership II Awards** - Letter of Intent (LOI) due **5:00 pm (PST), December 18, 2012**

CIRM will conduct a webinar for prospective applicants on December 4, 2012 from 1-2 pm PST to address questions about RFA 12-09 and the application process. To participate in the webinar and submit your questions please REGISTER via Webex at:  
[https://cirm.webex.com/cirm/onstage/g.php?](https://cirm.webex.com/cirm/onstage/g.php?d=807716158&t=a&EA=cschaffer%40cirm.ca.gov&ET=4d18029892cab17c8ea5313aa9d1ee7&ETR=be8a5eed472b94ada89725a64cf0913f&RT=MIM0&p)

[d=807716158&t=a&EA=cschaffer%40cirm.ca.gov&ET=4d18029892cab17c8ea5313aa9d1ee7&ETR=be8a5eed472b94ada89725a64cf0913f&RT=MIM0&p](https://cirm.webex.com/cirm/onstage/g.php?d=807716158&t=a&EA=cschaffer%40cirm.ca.gov&ET=4d18029892cab17c8ea5313aa9d1ee7&ETR=be8a5eed472b94ada89725a64cf0913f&RT=MIM0&p). For more information, visit the RFA 12-09 webpage.

#### **PA 12-08: CIRM Patent Assistance Fund Awards** - Application opportunities on a **monthly basis until June 30, 2014**

The goal of the Patent Assistance Fund is to ensure adequate prosecution of intellectual property ("IP") relating to CIRM Funded Inventions ("CFIs") (as defined in the CIRM Grants Administration Policy for Academic and Non-Profit Institutions (GAP)) that have commercial relevance. **Eligibility: Only Technology Transfer Officials at current CIRM Grantee institutions are eligible to apply for funds under this program.** For more information, visit the PA 12-08 webpage.

Get more info about CIRM RFAs

Sign up to receive CIRM funding announcements

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